

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A powder metallic coating material comprising a flake pigment and a resin powder, wherein said flake pigment includes a base particle having flaky shape and a film containing a charge control agent coated on a surface of said base particle, and the relation between a charge value of said flake pigment and a charge value of said resin powder is defined by the following expressions (1) and (2):

$$|C_R - C_A| \leq 10 \quad \bullet \bullet \bullet (1)$$

$$10 \leq |C_A| \leq 40 \quad \bullet \bullet \bullet (2)$$

where C_A denotes the charge value ($\mu\text{C/g}$) of said flake pigment and C_R denotes the charge value ($\mu\text{C/g}$) of said resin powder.

2. (Previously Presented) The powder metallic coating material according to claim 1, wherein said base particle is made of a material containing a metal.

3. (Previously Presented) The powder metallic coating material according to claim 1, wherein said charge control agent contains a negative charge control agent and/or a positive charge control agent.

4. (Currently Amended) The powder metallic coating material according to claim 3, wherein said negative charge control agent is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of Azo Cr complexes, salicylic acid Al complexes, and resin ~~type~~ charge control agents having sulfonic acid group.

5. (Currently Amended) The powder metallic coating material according to claim 3, wherein said positive charge control agent is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of Nigrosine of azine ~~type~~ compounds, Nigrosine bases of azine ~~type~~ compounds,

Nigrosine derivatives of azine ~~type~~ compounds, naphthenic acid metal salts, naphthenic acid quaternary ammonium salts, naphthenic acid alkylamides, higher fatty acid metal salts, quaternary ammonium salts of higher fatty acid, higher fatty acid alkylamides, and quaternary ammonium salts of resin ~~type compound~~. compounds.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A coating obtained by applying the powder metallic coating material of claim 1 to a substrate by powder coating and thermally curing said powder metallic coating material.

9. (Previously Presented) A production method of the flake pigment of claim 1 including a base particle having flaky shape and a film containing a charge control agent coated on a surface of said base particle, comprising the steps of:
dispersing said base particle in a good solvent for said charge control agent in which said charge control agent is dissolved; and
depositing said film on the surface of said base particle by adding a poor solvent for said charge control agent to said good solvent in which said base particle is dispersed.

10. (Previously Presented) A production method of the flake pigment of claim 1 including a base particle having flaky shape and a film containing a charge control agent coated on a surface of said base particle, comprising the steps of:
producing a mixture by mixing a polymerizable monomer and said charge control agent; and
forming a film containing a copolymer resin obtained from said mixture on the surface of said base particle.

11. (New) The powder metallic coating material of claim 1, wherein the base particle has an average particle size of 1 to 100 μm .

12. (New) The powder metallic coating material of claim 1, wherein the average thickness of the base particle is in the range of 0.01 to 5 μm .

13. (New) The powder metallic coating material of claim 1, wherein the base particle is selected from the group consisting of mica, surface-colored mica, glass flakes, surface colored glass flakes, pearl, alumina flakes, colored alumina flakes, silica flakes, colored silica flakes, iron oxide flakes, graphite flakes, hologram pigment flakes and cholesteric liquid crystalline polymers used in combination with the base particles of metal flakes.

14. (New) The powder metallic coating material of claim 1, wherein the coating amount of the charge control agent to 100 parts by mass of the base particles in the flake pigment is 0.1 to 5.0 parts by mass.

15. (New) A powder metallic coating material having an effective introduction ratio, a high coating brightness, and an excellent substrate hiding property with the elimination of coating spit formation which comprises flake pigment and a resin powder, wherein said flake pigment includes a base particle having flaky shape and a film containing a charge control agent coated on a surface of said base particle, and the relation between a charge value of said flake pigment and a charge value of said resin powder is defined by the following expressions (1) and (2):

$$|C_R - C_A| \leq 10 \quad \bullet \bullet \bullet (1)$$

$$10 \leq |C_A| \leq 40 \quad \bullet \bullet \bullet (2)$$

where C_A denotes the charge value ($\mu\text{C/g}$) of said flake pigment and C_R denotes the charge value ($\mu\text{C/g}$) of said resin powder.